

Submitter: Karly Chin
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2977

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 2977.

This bill is critical for supporting Oregon's iconic wildlife. There are nearly 300 species of greatest conservation need and 11 habitats of conservation concern. To combat this – and ensure all species thrive in Oregon – we need bold, proactive investments in their recovery. The bill also allocates funds for wildlife stewardship, Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund, anti-poaching efforts, wildlife connectivity and invasive species control – which further bolster wildlife conservation in the state. HB 2977 would do just that by providing a steady, sustainable source of funds to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to recover Oregon's most imperiled species and habitat and enhance biodiversity – all of which contribute to Oregon's tourism and outdoor recreation economy.

Additionally, research has demonstrated that this bill will NOT negatively impact the the tourism industry. An independent economic consultant analyzed the proposed tax increase in HB 2977 and found:

- There would be no impact on spending based on evidence from comparable states. Higher lodging tax rates do not negatively impact lodging spending or outdoor recreation's contribution to our state's GDP.
- Oregon still would maintain the 3rd lowest lodging tax rates in the country; only Alaska and California are lower
- The bulk of the in-state lodging tax revenue would be from out-of-state visitors (63%)

Please support HB 2977 and do your part in protecting the legacy of Oregon's wildlife for the years to come. Thank you.